REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to better clarify the present invention. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled. Claim 4, an original multiple dependent claim, has been rewritten as new independent claims 7 (4 + 1), 8 (4 + 2) and 9 (4 + 3). Claim 6, an original multiple dependent claim, has been rewritten as new independent claims 10 (6 + 1), 11 (6 + 2) and 12 (6 + 5).

The rejections of Claims 1-3 and 5 are now moot in view of cancellation of those claims, for which Applicants may file a divisional application.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Claim 4 (now 7-9) as obvious in view of a combination of Yates (U.S. 3,492,520) and Naito et al. (U.S. 6,555,940) is requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Yates shows all the limitations of the invention except a void formed in the rotor yoke between the permanent magnet and the rotating shaft, and that Naito et al. shows a void (SL3) formed in the rotor yoke between permanent magnet (L1) and the rotating shaft for the purpose of guiding magnetic flux.

In Applicants' invention, as now specified in new Claims 7, 8 and 9, voids are exemplified by voids 5D in Figure 26 and Figure 28, which voids are arcuate and concentric with the shaft and

are also closely adjacent to the shaft. Such a feature is not taught or suggested in either Yates or Naito et al.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Claim 6 (now 10-12) as anticipated by Liu et al. (U.S. 4,358,696) is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action states that Liu et al. discloses a synchronous motor wherein the permanent magnets (36 and 37) are provided at both ends of a line that connects two magnetic poles, and that the permanent magnets are radially disposed substantially about the rotating shaft.

As now amended, however, in Claim 6 (now 10-12) secondary permanent magnets are radially aligned and also are adjacent the rotor shaft, as clearly shown in Figure 30 which shows secondary magnets 31SB. This feature is not taugth or suggested in Liu et al. or the other references cited and is believed to be a novel and beneficial feature.

In view of the present amendment, Applicants believe Claims 7-12 (old claims 4 and 6) to be patentable over the prior art and that those claims are in condition for allowance.

Early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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